CLAIMS

- 1. DNA enzyme characterized by comprising a nucleotide residue, to which any one organic group selected from the group consisting of azobenzene, spiropyran, stilbene, and derivatives thereof is bonded, at a 3'-side end of a catalytically active loop of the DNA enzyme.
- 2. The DNA enzyme according to Claim 1, represented by the following Formula:

(in Formulae, A represents a catalytically active loop end, B represents nucleotide or oligonucleotide, X represents any one organic group selected from the group consisting of azobenzene, spiropyran, stilbene, and derivatives thereof, and R represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having the carbon number of 1 to 4).

3. The DNA enzyme according to Claim 2, wherein X is represented by the following Formula (I), (II), or (III):

$$-Q-R^{1} \xrightarrow{R^{2}} \begin{array}{c} R^{3} & R^{6} & R^{7} \\ N-N & R^{10} & R^{8} \end{array} \qquad (I)$$

(in Formulae, R^1 , R^{11} , and R^{21} represent independently a direct bond; an unsubstituted or a halogen atom-, hydroxyl-, amino-, nitro-, or carboxyl-substituted alkylene group having the carbon number of 1 to 20; or an unsubstituted or a halogen atom-, hydroxyl-, amino-, nitro-, or carboxyl-substituted alkenylene group having the carbon number of 2 to 20, Q represents a direct bond, an oxygen atom, a -(CH₂)_n-NH-CO- group, or a -(CH₂)_n-CO-NH- group, where n = 1 to 5, and R^2 to R^{10} , R^{12} to R^{20} , and R^{22} to R^{30} represent independently an unsubstituted or a halogen atom-, hydroxyl-, amino-, nitro-, or carboxyl-substituted alkyl group or

alkoxy group having the carbon number of 1 to 20; an unsubstituted or a halogen atom-, hydroxyl-, amino-, nitro-, or carboxyl-substituted alkenyl group or alkynyl group having the carbon number of 2 to 20; a hydroxyl group; a halogen atom; an amino group; a nitro group; or a carboxyl group).

- 4. A method for controlling the activity of a DNA enzyme, characterized by comprising the step of applying light at specific wavelengths to the DNA enzyme including a nucleotide residue, to which any one organic group selected from the group consisting of azobenzene, spiropyran, stilbene, and derivatives thereof is bonded, and thereby, effecting reversible structural isomerization between a planar structure and a nonplanar structure of the organic group, so as to control the RNA cleavage activity of the DNA enzyme.
- 5. The method for controlling the activity of a DNA enzyme according to Claim 4, wherein the introduction position of the nucleotide residue is a 3'-side end of a catalytically active loop.
- 6. The method for controlling the activity of a DNA enzyme according to Claim 5, wherein the DNA enzyme is represented by the following Formula:

(in Formulae, A represents a catalytically active loop end, B represents nucleotide or oligonucleotide, X represents any one organic group selected from the group consisting of azobenzene, spiropyran, stilbene, and derivatives thereof, and R represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having the carbon number of 1 to 4).

7. The method for controlling the activity of a DNA enzyme according to Claim 6, wherein X is represented by the following Formula (IV), (V), or (VI):

$$-Q-R^{31} \xrightarrow{R^{32}} R^{33} \xrightarrow{R^{36}} R^{37}$$

$$-Q-R^{31} \xrightarrow{R^{35}} R^{34} \xrightarrow{R^{40}} R^{39} \qquad (IV)$$

$$R^{42}$$
 R^{45}
 R^{44}
 R^{45}
 R^{44}
 R^{45}
 R^{44}
 R^{50}
 R^{49}
 R^{48}
 R^{48}
 R^{49}

$$R^{53}$$
 R^{53}
 R^{54}
 R^{50}
 R^{50}

(in Formulae, R³¹, R⁴¹, and R⁵¹ represent independently a direct bond; an unsubstituted or a halogen atom-, hydroxyl-, amino-, nitro-, or carboxyl-substituted alkylene group having the carbon number of 1 to 20; or an unsubstituted or a halogen atom-, hydroxyl-, amino-, nitro-, or carboxyl-substituted alkenylene group having the carbon number of 2 to 20, Q represents a direct bond, an oxygen atom, a -(CH₂)_n-NH-CO- group, or a -(CH₂)_n-CO-NH- group, where n = 1 to 5, R³² to R³⁷, R³⁹, R⁴⁰, R⁴² to R⁴⁷, R⁴⁹, R⁵⁰, R⁵² to R⁵⁷, R⁵⁹, and R⁶⁰ represent independently an unsubstituted or a halogen atom-, hydroxyl-, amino-, nitro-, or carboxyl-

substituted alkyl group or alkoxy group having the carbon number of 1 to 20; an unsubstituted or a halogen atom-, hydroxyl-, amino-, nitro-, or carboxyl-substituted alkenyl group or alkynyl group having the carbon number of 2 to 20; a hydroxyl group; a halogen atom; an amino group; a nitro group; or a carboxyl group, and R³⁸, R⁴⁸, and R⁵⁸ represent independently an unsubstituted or a halogen atom-, hydroxyl-, amino-, nitro-, or carboxyl-substituted alkyl group or alkoxy group having the carbon number of 1 to 20; an unsubstituted or a halogen atom-, hydroxyl-, amino-, nitro-, or carboxyl-substituted alkenyl group or alkynyl group having the carbon number of 2 to 20; a hydroxyl group; or a halogen atom).